

ITEM 9. DRAFT GLEBE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**FILE NO: S044966****SUMMARY**

On 12 May 2008, Council resolved to bring forward the completion date of the *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* from 2009 to December 2008. The new timeframe responded to significant community concern about criminal and anti-social behaviour in Glebe.

The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan 2009-2012* provides a framework to direct the City and its partner agencies in addressing the complex range of crime and safety issues affecting Glebe.

The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* has identified six priority objectives to address crime and safety issues in Glebe, namely:

- (a) reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- (b) addressing school retention, capacity building and diversionary issues for local young people;
- (c) developing community capacity building projects with the broader community;
- (d) tackling crime and safety issues in Public Housing;
- (e) improving the look and feel of the physical environment; and
- (f) supporting ex-offenders released from prison.

Key actions identified include:

- (a) the delivery of extended hours youth diversionary programming by the City's Youth Services in Glebe; and
- (b) the development of new employment and educational programs for at-risk young people in Glebe.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council approve the *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan 2009-2012*, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, for a period of public exhibition and consultation from 16 December 2008 to 27 February 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan 2009-2012*

Attachment B: Stakeholder Consultation

BACKGROUND

1. In 2007, the City of Sydney endorsed the *Safe City Strategy 2007-2012* to provide an overarching framework to guide the City and its partners in addressing the complex range of crime and safety issues affecting both the Central Business District and urban villages.
2. One of the key initiatives contained within the *Safe City Strategy* is to develop localised community safety plans in recognition that the City's distinct communities have their own unique crime and safety issues.
3. The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan 2009-2012* is the second localised safety plan produced by the City following on from the Redfern-Waterloo plan of 2004-2007.
4. On 12 May 2008, Council resolved to bring forward the completion date of the *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* from 2009 to December 2008. The new timeframe responded to significant community concern about alleged criminal and anti-social behaviour in Glebe.
5. Since early 2008, City staff have provided a range of new responses to community concerns about crime and community cohesion in Glebe. Some of these are:
 - (a) safety audit of several key residential areas;
 - (b) 4 new youth diversionary recreation programs at the City's Peter Forsythe Auditorium;
 - (c) seniors safety workshop and self defence classes;
 - (d) support in establishing the Bay Franklyn Tenants Group;
 - (e) young mum's group;
 - (f) Short Black Films program at Glebe Youth Service; and
 - (g) new Glebe NAIDOC Week event.
6. The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* acknowledges that the causes of crime are complex and that a range of responses are required. The Plan responds to the identified key issues based on evidence from Leichhardt Police and NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, community consultation, new and existing research and discussions with key stakeholders. The Draft Plan is at **Attachment A**.
7. The Plan is based on the following objectives:

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour – including working with the Police and other stakeholders in addressing robbery, steal from person, steal from motor vehicle and malicious damage offences.

Addressing school retention, and addressing capacity building and diversionary issues for local young people – including developing a supported transition and school retention strategy with local schools, mentoring and leadership programs and through the provision of youth community development and recreation programs.

Developing community capacity building projects with the broader community – including co-ordinating and supporting community events and activities.

Tackling crime and safety issues in Public Housing – including supporting the Glebe Area Tenants Group and other community groups in developing and implementing identified community development projects.

Improving the look and feel of the physical environment – including community safety audits, improved street lighting, activation of laneways, respect for heritage and appropriate urban design.

Supporting ex-offenders released from Prison – including working with the state government and local non-government organisations in supporting ex-offenders successful reintegration into the community.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

8. **Strategic Alignment** – The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* has clear policy links to the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Plan, the Social Plan 2006-2011, the Glebe Business Precinct Study, the Glebe Conservation Area Study, the Redfern-Waterloo Community Safety Plan, the Youth Interagency Strategy and Action Plan, the Drug and Alcohol Strategy and the City's Road Safety program. It is also consistent with the directions of the NSW State Plan 2006-16.
9. **Organisational Impact** – The *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* involves a medium to long term integrated planning approach and commits Youth and Safe City staff to a three year commitment to developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the strategies outlined in the document.
10. **Social / Cultural / Community** – Crime and the fear of crime has a significant impact on individual, community and economic well-being, public and residential amenity and sense of community.
11. According to Leichhardt Police, the key crimes impacting on the Glebe community are assault, robbery, steal from person, steal from motor vehicle and malicious damage. Police reports and crime statistics support the fact that there was an increase in these types of crimes allegedly committed by local young people around October 2007 – March 2008. Since mid 2008 however, crime in Glebe has fallen across all major categories and also juvenile crime. This is attributed to tougher bail enforcement efforts by Police – especially enforcement of the 7pm bail conditions – and to the co-ordinated efforts of the range of agencies responsible, including the City, which has significantly increased its level of programming in the Glebe area.
12. Glebe is also characterised by a large gap between high and low socioeconomic groups and contains a large number of Housing NSW properties and the plan as a consequence has a focus on supporting public housing tenants.

13. Glebe also accommodates a significant Aboriginal community, with a large number of Aboriginal young people living in public housing. The plan seeks to build greater opportunities for local Aboriginal young people through appropriate and well-targeted employment, training and recreation based programming.
14. **Economic** – Annual spending on law and order in Australia runs into several billion dollars and this does not take into account the significant emotional costs affecting victims of crime, their families and the broader community.
15. Crime has a negative impact upon the local economy with Council spending many millions of dollars on graffiti removal and responding to malicious damage to property offences. Crime has also been highlighted by local Glebe businesses as a serious issue affecting the economic development of the suburb in the Council commissioned Glebe Business Precinct Study.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

16. Actions identified in the Draft Plan for extended youth hours programming and support for existing youth services will be considered within the upcoming review of youth services. Budget implications will be considered at that time.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

17. In preparing the *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan* extensive community consultation was undertaken and will continue to be undertaken as part of the plan's development. This process has included convening six Good Neighbourhood BBQs across the Glebe area, where local people were asked to make suggestions on making Glebe a better and safer place. A full list of individuals and groups consulted appears at **Attachment B**.
18. If Council agrees to endorse the *Draft Glebe Community Safety Plan*, a process of public exhibition in Council offices, neighbourhood service centres, online and an additional round of Good Neighbourhood BBQs will take place, as well as ongoing discussions with key stakeholders.

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